

Berlin Tourismus & Kongress GmbH

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March 2014

Welcome to the International Tourist Exchange (ITB) in Berlin!

Dear Sir or Madam ,

We are happy to welcome you here and thank you for your interest in the German capital.

Twenty five years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the German capital projects itself as a modern, cosmopolitan and creative city at the heart of Europe which is constantly re-inventing itself. To every visitor Berlin offers a very personal experience: With more museums than rainy days, its legendary clubbing scene and dramatic history there is so much discover.

In 2014, Berlin is celebrating a quarter century since the Berlin Wall fell and the city was reunited. Visitors will be drawn to the 1,600 m2 stand by an original piece of the Berlin Wall, representative of one of the most significant events in recent German history. Visitors can decorate a four-metre high piece of the Wall in Hall 12 as well. Historic photos and film clips provide information about the event. To mark the anniversary, *visitBerlin* is releasing its latest publication "The Berlin Wall – Berlin's most thrilling breakthrough" at ITB. For more information about the Berlin Wall, go to wall.visitBerlin.com.

For the first time, *visitBerlin* has also rented Hall 13. The hall will house a display developed in cooperation with Kulturprojekte Berlin GmbH that will give a preview of the upcoming anniversary. The light installation across the city of Berlin that is planned for the weekend of 9 November is featured.

Please come and meet us at our booth in Hall 12 where we can supply you with numerous up-to-date publications. You can also find us on the Internet on www.visitBerlin.de/presse. Please find our latest press news [here](#).

If you need images of Berlin for your travel reports, you can easily order them from our website. Under the following link you can access the selection menu and further explanations: www.flickr.com/photos/visitBerlin. We wish you a very pleasant stay in Berlin.

Yours sincerely

Christian Tänzler & Katharina Dreger
Press & Public Relations

Berlin at ITB 2014

25 years "Fall of the Berlin Wall" as a main topic in Halls 12 and 13 / Further topics: sport and accessibility / Weekend tip: autographs from Berlin's professional athletes

Berlin, 3 March 2014 Berlin welcomes the world at ITB Berlin from 5–9 March. Once again, Berlin and its neighbouring state of Brandenburg will have a joint presence as Germany's capital region at this year's ITB Berlin at Messe Berlin under the Funkturm. In Hall 12, around 80 partners from Berlin and Brandenburg will be showcasing their offerings for 2014 under the umbrella of *visitBerlin* and TMB Tourismus-Marketing Brandenburg GmbH.

"ITB is like playing a home game for Berlin," says *visitBerlin* CEO Burkhard Kieker. "By speaking with colleagues in the global travel industry, we put Berlin on their agenda. Both at the exhibition and across the city as a whole, Berlin is showing its international guests that it has become a trendy, open-minded city of freedom in the 25 years since the fall of the Wall."

In addition to tourism partners, three themed interactive areas at the Berlin-Brandenburg stand invite visitors to get stuck in spending some time exploring our region.

Interactive Exhibit on the 25th Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall

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For the first time, *visitBerlin* has also rented Hall 13. The hall will house a display developed in cooperation with Kulturprojekte Berlin GmbH that will give a preview of the upcoming anniversary. The light installation across the city of Berlin that is planned for the weekend of 9 November is featured. The illuminated balloons will extend for twelve kilometres along the former border between East and West. They will give the hundreds of thousands of people expected to turn out for the celebration a dignified impression of how incomprehensible and serious the nearly three decades of division were for the city's residents.

Berlin for Sports Fans

In addition to culture and research, sport is one of the city's key strengths. Accordingly, Berlin is also featuring its role as a hotspot for sport for the first time at ITB. The sports stand will feature three trophies won in the past season by the city's professional sports clubs Alba Berlin, Berlin Recycling Volleys and the Eisbären. After three days for trade guests only, ITB opens up to the general public on the weekend. That's when stars from 1. FC Union, Eisbären Berlin, Alba Berlin and Olympiastützpunkt will be giving autographs. In addition, Berlin sports mascots Herthinho,

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Press Release



Ritter Keule, Albatros, Charly, Fuchsi and Bully will be on hand all day for some family fun helping visitors big and small explore the Berlin stand. Sporting visitors can join in on Wii games consoles and participate in a raffle. For more information about Berlin as a hotspot for sport, go to: sport.visitBerlin.com.

Berlin Open to All – Accessibility in Tourism

Accessibility is one of the key tasks for the future in Berlin's tourism industry. The goal: everyone coming to Berlin should be able to participate in everything the city offers, regardless of their special needs. This is why one of the interactive areas at ITB focuses on "Accessible Berlin". *visitBerlin*, in cooperation with the Otto Bock Science Center, is showing how the capital could and should be made accessible to all. An interactive app and a wheelchair test are presented.

visitBerlin, as a partner of the federal initiative "Tourism for All in Germany", is also providing information on the initial steps that are being taken to offer people with disabilities a barrier-free Berlin experience. In an initial step to identify establishments that are already accessible, data has been collected by Berlin Tourist Infos, several hotels and shipping companies. Together with the project sponsor, the Deutsches Seminar für Tourismus, *visitBerlin* is presenting the options that would make wider participation possible.

Politicians Visiting on 5 March

In addition to the visit of Berlin Mayor Klaus Wowereit to the Berlin stand (5 March, 10am–12noon), *visitBerlin* is also expecting to welcome Madrid Mayor Ana Botella Serrano to sign a tourism marketing cooperation agreement between Madrid and Berlin (5 March, 12noon). State Secretary Ephraim Gothe of the Senate Ministry for Urban Development and Environment will sign an agreement setting targets agreed by the "Accessible City" Roundtable (5 March, 2pm).

***visitBerlin* presents its new blog to the blog scene**

Just in time for ITB, the newly redesigned blog.visitBerlin.com will be presented to the travel blogger community as part of a blogger speed dating event. In addition, *visitBerlin* is supporting the ITB 2014 blogger event "TravelEvolution", which is organised by Travel Massive and the travel start-up GoEuro. International bloggers and travel writers are invited to this networking event being held the night before ITB opens.

At last year's ITB, 10,086 exhibitors from 188 countries presented their products and services to around 170,000 visitors, including 110,000 trade visitors and 7,000 journalists.

More information available at visitBerlin.com; a hall plan can be downloaded [here](#).

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EUROPÄISCHE UNION
Europäischer Fonds für
regionale Entwicklung
Investition in Ihre Zukunft

visitBerlin Events at ITB 2014

Tue, 4 Mar

From 7pm: Travel Massive – in cooperation with GoEuro, ITB and visitBerlin

- Location: Platoon Kunsthalle, Schönhauser Allee 9, 10119 Berlin
- Advance registration required: <http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/berlin-travel-massive-itb-tickets-10625265455>

Wed, 5 Mar

10 am – 12 noon Stand Tour of Governing Mayor of Berlin, Klaus Wowereit

- Location: Berlin-Brandenburg Stand, Hall 12

12 noon: Signing of the tourism marketing cooperation agreement between Madrid and Berlin with Madrid Mayor Ana Botella Serrano, Berlin Mayor Klaus Wowereit, Madrid head of tourism María del Mar de Miguel Colom and Burkhard Kieker, CEO of visitBerlin

- Location: Berlin-Brandenburg Stand, Hall 12, Berlin Info Counter

Thu and Fr, 6 and 7 March

4.30 pm – 6.00 pm Blogger Speed Dating

visitBerlin introduces bloggers from around the world to Berlin as a tourism destination and to the redesigned blog.visitBerlin.de

- Location: Hall 7.3, Berlin Room

Sat and Sun, 8 and 9 March

10 am – 4 pm, Entertainment programme with Berlin pro athletes and team mascots

- Location: Berlin-Brandenburg Stand, Hall 12
- **Autograph Sessions** with athletes from 1. FC Union Berlin, Alba Berlin, Eisbären Berlin and Olympiastützpunkt (subject to last-minute scheduling changes)
Sat 12 noon – 1 pm Robert Förstemann (speed cycling), **1 pm – 2 pm:** Eisbären team members
Sun 1 pm – 2 pm: 1. FC Union Berlin team members, **2 pm – 3 pm:** Alba Berlin team members
- At the weekend, join us for a contest and visits from Berlin's **team mascots** :
Sat 10 am – 4 pm Bully (Eisbären), Charly (BR Volleys), Albatros (Alba Berlin), Fuchsi (Füchse Berlin)
Sun 10 am – 4 pm: Herthinho (Hertha BSC), Ritter Keule (1 FC Union Berlin), Albatross (Alba Berlin)

Service Information for the Media at ITB

The *visitBerlin* Press Office will be represented at the Berlin-Brandenburg stand in Hall 12.

The following team members will be available for interviews in person, by phone or by email:

Christian Tänzler, Press Spokesman / Media Relations Manager: +49(0)171 86 43 124,
christian.taenzler@visitBerlin.de

Katharina Dreger, Head of Press & Public Relations / Press Spokeswoman +49(0)179 10 64 201,
katharina.dreger@visitBerlin.de

If you'd like to arrange a longer conversation, we recommend making an appointment.

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Press Release

Tourism figures for 2013: Berlin sees faster growth than Germany as a whole

New record with about 27 million overnight stays and more than 11 million visitors /
Senator Yzer: tourism key factor for Berlin's economy

Berlin, 27 February 2014 For the tenth time in a row, the tourism figures for Berlin have broken records as 26.94 million overnight stays (+8.2% over 2012) and 11.32 million guests (+4.4%). By December 2013, the 25 million threshold in overnight stays was crossed for the first time. Berlin's Senator for Economics, **Cornelia Yzer**, comments: "Berlin has been setting tourism records for ten years straight. The capital is one of the fastest growing destinations in the world. It's firmly placed among the top three destinations in Europe and is also one of the leading international destinations for conventions and conferences. And tourism has become a key factor to Berlin's economic success."

Numbers of international visitors to Berlin growing twice as fast as the German average

"International visitors made up 43 per cent of the overnight stays in Berlin last year—a new record," says **Burkhard Kieker**, CEO of *visitBerlin*. "Berlin's growing twice as fast as the general trend in Germany, showing once again that Berlin is driving the growth of international tourism in Germany. In particular, our investment in overseas markets is paying off."

In 2013, Berlin saw 11.6 million overnight stays from international visitors, an increase of 9.2 per cent (compared to +4.5% for Germany as a whole). The number of international visitors increased by 5.1 per cent to 4.3 million.

German visitors accounted for 57 per cent of overnight stays, while people from other European countries made up 31 per cent and 12 per cent were visitors from overseas. Most of the foreign overnight stays were generated by visitors from the UK, Italy, USA, Netherlands and Denmark. Berlin is also showing high levels of growth in visitors from the Gulf States (+33.6%), China (+ 21.6%) and Russia (+ 21.5%).

If one compares Berlin's 11.6 million overnight stays by international visitors with the 71.9 million stays in all of Germany, Berlin is responsible for 16.1 per cent of all nights spent by international visitors in Germany.

"The growth of tourism in Berlin for guests from both Germany and abroad is once again well above the national average. The number of overnight stays by international visitors to Berlin last year equalled the numbers we posted in 2004 and 2005 combined. This reflects the annual growth in the number of available beds in our city, especially in the city districts. New medium-size operations (250-499 beds) have seen a particular increase in the past ten years," says Astrid Langer of the Amt für Statistik Berlin-Brandenburg.

Press Release

Convention business setting new records

Berlin continues to grow as a destination for meetings and conventions, as can be seen in the latest conference statistics for 2013 from the *visitBerlin* Berlin Convention Office*.

Last year, 10.6 million participants (+1% over the previous year) visited 126,200 single- and multi-day events (+3%) held in the German capital. The number of overnight stays generated by the meeting and convention market rose by 1.5 per cent to 6.7 million, which equals about a quarter of all hotel stays in Berlin. Consequently, Berlin was able to expand its position as one of the leading convention destinations in the world.

“In Berlin, 345 events are held each day on average. This makes Berlin one of the world’s major meeting and convention locations,” says Burkhard Kieker, CEO of *visitBerlin*.

Science and politics meet in Berlin; one in five participants comes from abroad

Berlin is a popular location for science and medical events: Measured by the number of participants, meetings and conferences related to medicine, science and research represented 14 per cent of the total in 2013 (+2%), followed by politics and public bodies (12%). Around 18 per cent of all events had an international presence. The number of participants from abroad stood at 1.9 million, meaning one in five participants at events in the city came from outside Germany. Associations are also increasingly opting to hold their gatherings in Berlin: 20 per cent of the events were held by associations.

Visitors to the city had 132,600 beds in 786 establishments (not counting camp sites) to choose from this past December. With an average of 56.4 per cent, occupancy rates were the best posted in the past 25 years.

January–December 2013 Berlin**

Country of origin	Guests	Change in % over previous year	Overnight Stays	Change in % over previous year
Germany (57.1%)	7,030,071	3.9	15,382,199	7.5
Abroad (42.9%)	4,294,876	5.1	11,559,883	9.2
Total	11,324,974	4.4	26,942,082	8.2

Germany tourism in 2013 ***

Country of origin	Guests	Change in % over Dec. 2012	Overnight Stays	Change in % over Dec. 2012
Germany (83 %)	123,645,991	1.6	339,859,547	0.4
Abroad (17 %)	31,545,132	1.1	71,919,385	4.5
Total	155,191,123	3.7	411,778,932	1.1

* 2013 convention statistics from the independent market research company ghh consult GmbH on behalf of *visitBerlin*

** Amt für Statistik Berlin-Brandenburg

***Statistisches Bundesamt

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January - December 2013

Berlin

MARKETS	ARRIVALS				OVERNIGHTS				SHARE**	DURATION	RANK Overn.
	December		Jan.-Dec.		December		Jan.-Dec.		Jan.-Dec.	of STAY	
	total	% *	total	% *	total	% *	total	% *	%	days	
Total	846,346	5.2	11,324,947	4.4	1,982,617	9.6	26,942,082	8.2	100.0	2.4	
Germany	512,655	4.1	7,030,071	3.9	1,054,205	5.9	15,382,199	7.5	57.1**	2.2	
Total foreign countries	333,691	6.9	4,294,876	5.1	928,412	14.2	11,559,883	9.2	42.9**	2.7	
Total Europe	257,200	6.9	3,103,919	3.5	712,390	12.0	8,371,919	7.4	72.4	2.7	
Europe											
United Kingdom	39,121	2.8	450,607	10.9	110,392	12.4	1,187,058	18.4	10.3	2.6	1
Italy	22,989	-3.8	280,089	-4.9	70,331	3.2	844,069	-1.6	7.3	3.0	2
Netherlands	27,820	7.1	281,145	0.6	77,012	5.7	764,968	2.1	6.6	2.7	3
Denmark	18,528	9.5	228,624	2.9	50,940	6.2	637,596	5.1	5.5	2.8	4
France	16,553	-5.4	230,064	-0.6	46,570	4.1	626,316	2.7	5.4	2.7	5
Spain	15,332	7.6	203,088	-11.9	47,773	15.5	604,869	-8.7	5.2	3.0	6
Switzerland	15,669	4.5	215,141	4.9	42,453	9.4	575,735	10.3	5.0	2.7	7
Russia	18,030	13.9	185,117	13.7	51,076	19.9	506,100	21.5	4.4	2.7	8
Sweden	12,742	5.8	163,935	5.5	34,727	12.3	423,269	10.3	3.7	2.6	9
Austria	9,224	11.6	143,769	7.0	22,535	17.0	356,281	10.4	3.1	2.5	10
Norway	8,285	16.2	107,881	5.1	23,809	21.4	285,333	11.2	2.5	2.6	11
Poland	12,850	33.4	133,524	18.5	23,967	30.9	273,280	15.2	2.4	2.0	12
Belgium	6,141	10.5	87,432	1.8	15,892	9.3	234,926	7.0	2.0	2.7	13
Finland	6,944	-2.6	70,460	4.7	21,003	5.8	199,622	12.1	1.7	2.8	14
Turkey	2,851	-5.8	37,352	-0.8	7,870	6.6	96,162	6.2	0.8	2.6	15
Ireland, Republic	2,857	11.0	32,273	-5.6	8,073	22.8	88,835	4.7	0.8	2.8	16
Czech Republic	2,873	20.8	37,524	12.8	5,695	22.0	79,419	14.2	0.7	2.1	17
Greece	3,081	24.2	24,180	-2.8	11,009	31.8	76,282	6.2	0.7	3.2	18
Portugal	1,139	-6.8	17,699	-8.3	3,689	1.5	52,716	-0.1	0.5	3.0	19
Hungary	1,063	11.5	16,804	-1.8	2,784	25.7	45,902	3.1	0.4	2.7	20
Romania	1,232	43.4	15,440	10.9	3,478	38.5	41,513	7.7	0.4	2.7	21
Ukraine	1,262	-2.6	15,970	17.6	3,375	4.1	39,989	23.8	0.3	2.5	22
Luxembourg	1,027	-3.7	13,661	6.2	2,798	7.5	37,448	17.6	0.3	2.7	23
Iceland	413	4.6	8,691	13.3	1,320	4.5	31,717	40.9	0.3	3.6	24
Bulgaria	807	48.6	10,085	27.9	2,347	92.9	27,209	40.7	0.2	2.7	25

January - December 2013

Berlin

MARKETS	ARRIVALS				OVERNIGHTS				SHARE**	DURATION	RANK Overn.
	December		Jan.-Dec.		December		Jan.-Dec.		Jan.-Dec.	of STAY	
	total	% *	total	% *	total	% *	total	% *	%	days	
Latvia	1,104	7.7	10,293	4.2	2,350	16.5	21,508	3.5	0.2	2.1	26
Lithuania	1,059	-5.6	9,835	-3.2	2,159	1.0	21,144	0.2	0.2	2.1	27
Slovakia	524	26.6	7,091	7.7	1,198	29.4	17,658	9.6	0.2	2.5	28
Estonia	349	16.3	6,551	24.9	1,025	31.6	16,724	38.0	0.1	2.6	29
Slovenia	414	39.4	5,975	-13.3	1,121	79.1	15,822	-11.1	0.1	2.6	30
Croatia	418	x	6,100	x	859	x	15,759	x	0.1	2.6	31
Cyprus	134	21.8	2,106.0	-17.0	486	29.9	6,243	-13.9	0.1	3.0	32
Malta	311	87.3	1,762	23.6	1,065	68.0	5,435	33.9	0.0	3.1	33
Other European countries	4,054	22.9	43,651	1.3	11,209	42.6	115,012	4.9	1.0	2.6	

January - December 2013

Berlin

MARKETS	ARRIVALS				OVERNIGHTS				SHARE**	DURATION	RANK Overn.
	December		Jan.-Dec.		December		Jan.-Dec.		Jan.-Dec.	of STAY	
	total	% *	total	% *	total	% *	total	% *	%	days	
OVERSEAS											
USA	17,493	-4.4	327,195	4.3	47,416	9.2	835,483	10.2	7.2	2.6	1
Brazil	5,027	8.2	68,143	3.8	15,472	16.6	209,448	8.0	1.8	3.1	2
Canada	2,028	-22.2	45,175	-1.8	5,715	-8.6	130,077	4.5	1.1	2.9	3
Central America, Caribbean	1,481	5.0	26,061	15.6	3,902	15.4	68,030	12.5	0.6	2.6	4
Other South American countries	2,488	31.3	50,576	5.8	7,019	33.4	149,677	11.9	1.3	3.0	
Total America	28,517	-1.2	517,150	4.3	79,524	11.1	1,392,715	9.6	12.0	2.7	
Israel	5,742	-8.9	84,844	4.0	22,347	19.3	311,755	18.9	2.7	3.7	1
China, incl. Hongkong	4,976	20.2	83,819	20.2	11,885	36.5	186,835	21.7	1.6	2.2	2
Japan	4,716	-8.3	63,538	-3.0	10,540	8.6	141,561	2.0	1.2	2.2	3
Arabic Gulf States	1,950	20.4	33,702	19.9	9,783	135.9	115,972	33.6	1.0	3.4	4
India	702	9.0	15,966	8.4	1,978	21.6	41,613	8.7	0.4	2.6	5
South Korea	1,041	89.3	13,797	-0.2	2,690	89.7	38,570	15.0	0.3	2.8	6
Taiwan	400	32.9	7,590	7.9	967	38.9	19,606	10.3	0.2	2.6	7
Other Asian countries	4,680	24.9	57,218	5.5	12,690	35.5	150,804	10.9	1.3	2.6	
Total Asia	24,207	7.8	360,474	7.7	72,880	34.0	1,006,716	16.1	8.7	2.8	
Australia	6,289	2.7	77,129	2.6	19,899	16.3	228,657	7.7	2.0	3.0	1
New Zealand, Oceania	824	8.7	10,259	11.4	2,452	18.2	28,734	19.3	0.2	2.8	2
Total Australia, New Zealand, Oceania	7,113	3.3	87,388	3.6	22,351	16.5	257,391	8.9	2.2	2.9	
South Africa	462	-25.2	7,491	-8.1	1,546	4.0	23,019	0.9	0.2	3.1	
Other African countries	1,705	37.9	23,047	-4.6	5,524	30.2	79,459	-7.7	0.7	3.4	
No information on residence	14,487	25.7	195,407	40.8	34,197	33.4	428,664	36.2	3.7	2.2	

*Compared to 2012

**Share of total overnights, otherwise share of international overnights

January - December 2013

Berlin

**Top-10- Overnight stays in Berlin
by country of origin (YTD)**

Country of origin	total	%*
Germany	15,382,199	7.5
UK	1,187,058	18.4
Italy	844,069	-1.6
USA	835,483	10.2
Netherlands	764,968	2.1
Denmark	637,596	5.1
France	626,316	2.7
Spain	604,869	-8.7
Switzerland	575,735	10.3
Russia	506,100	21.5

Overnight stays (percentage)

Domestic / International			
January - December 2012		January - December 2013	
Germany	57.5%	Germany	57.1%
International	42.5%	International	42.9%
Germany / Europe / Overseas			
January - December 2012		January - December 2013	
Germany	57.5%	Germany	57.1%
Europe (w/o Germany)	31.3%	Europe (w/o Germany)	31.1%
Overseas	11.2%	Overseas	11.8%

Statistics of overnight stays
Source Markets and occupancy rate by type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	Total		Germany ¹		International ¹		Occupancy %		Occupancy %		Available		Facilities**
	total	%*	total	%*	total	%*	beds	rooms	beds	rooms	beds	rooms	
	January - December						Dec.	Jan.-Dec.	Dec.	Jan.-Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	
Total accommodations ²	26,942,082	8.2	15,382,199	7.5	11,559,883	9.2	48.4	56.4	ns	ns	132,600	ns	786
Total hotel properties	22,778,733	9.3	13,147,365	8.6	9,631,368	10.3	50.4	57.2	ns	ns	110,747	ns	636
Hotels	14,453,214	8.7	7,857,661	6.2	6,595,553	11.8	52.8	58.4	ns	ns	69,339	ns	228
Hotels (breakfast only)	7,827,375	10.9	4,976,407	13.0	2,850,968	7.3	47.0	56.2	ns	ns	38,239	ns	304
Guesthouses	25,242	-10.5	21,528	-2.2	3,714	-39.9	24.9	31.9	ns	ns	190	ns	7
Boarding houses	472,902	5.3	291,769	3.0	181,133	9.2	37.6	43.6	ns	ns	2,979	ns	97
Other accommodations	4,163,349	2.6	2,234,834	1.7	1,928,515	3.6	38.4	52.3	ns	ns	21,853	ns	150
Camping sites	108,443	4.5	68,285	-0.9	40,158	15.4	4.6	7.8	ns	ns	2,140	ns	5

¹ Share Germany/International of Total

² Occupancy, available rooms and facilities without Camping sites

* Compared to 2012

** Number of accommodations available in reporting month

ns = not specified



25 Years after the Fall of the Wall

2014 will be a memorial year, honouring the most significant event in recent German history: 9 November 2014 will be the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall. To celebrate this historic occasion, many special exhibitions and events will take place throughout the city.

Light installation along the former site of the wall.

The climax of the celebrations will take place over the weekend of 9 November 2014. From 7 to 9 November, a light installation will be presented on the former site of the wall. The installation will represent the hope for a world without walls. A border of light, thousands of lit, helium filled balloons, will divide the city centre.

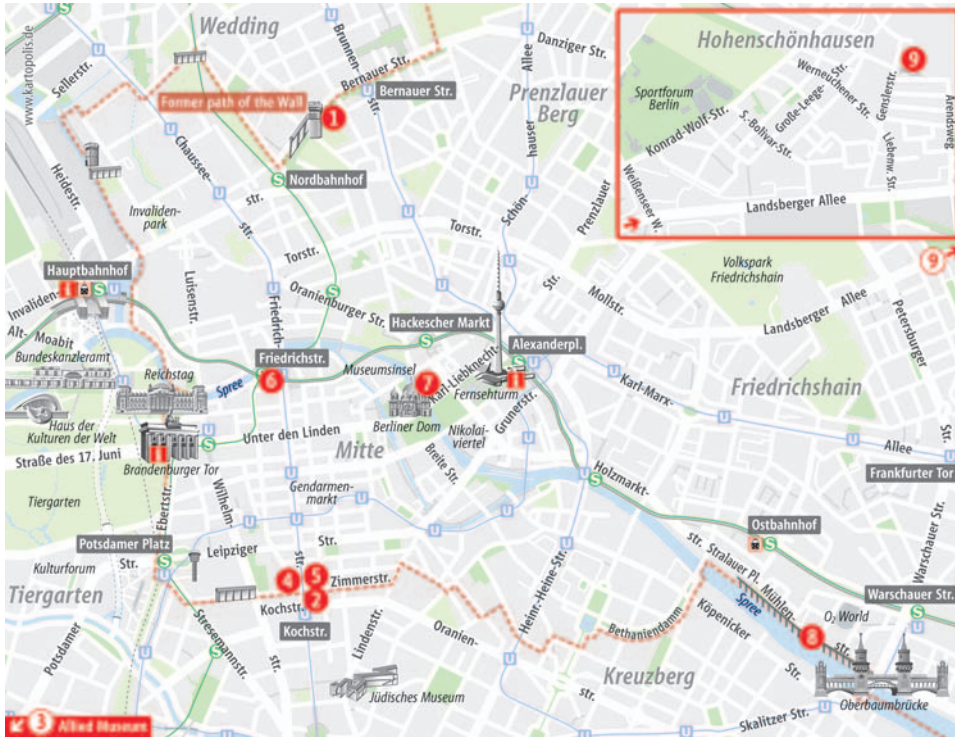
Everyone in the city will be invited, Berlin residents and visitors alike, to walk along the path that the wall followed, and to remember its dimensions and significance. The white balloons will be released from five locations – to remind us of the fall of the wall 25 years ago.

During the light installation on 9 November 2014, a new standing exhibition will be inaugurated in the Berlin wall documentation centre. A large number of other exhibitions and events, such as a film festival, will be offered from late summer to autumn.

For more information and an up-dated events calendar: wall.visitBerlin.de

Memories of the Separation – Memorials and Museums

For more than 28 years, an insurmountable wall divided Berlin into East and West. Today, numerous Berlin memorials and museums bear witness to this separation.



Stiftung Berliner Mauer /
Photo: Jürgen Hohnmuth



Asisi / Photo: Tom Schulze



Photo: Gedenkstätte Berlin-
Hohenschönhausen

1 Berlin Wall Memorial

The memorial ensemble includes the Berlin Wall Memorial, a documentation centre and the Chapel of Reconciliation. berliner-mauer-gedenkstaette.de

2 The Wall Museum – Museum House at Checkpoint Charlie

This private museum, located at the historically important border site, displays objects used by escapees and their helpers. mauermuseum.de

3 Allied Museum

The Allied Museum tells the story of the post-war powers in Berlin. Among the objects on display is the famous watchtower from Checkpoint Charlie. alliiertenmuseum.de

4 Wall Panorama

The artist Yadegar Asisi presents a panorama of life in the shadow of the wall between Mitte and Kreuzberg on an imaged day in autumn in the 1980s. asisi.de

5 Cold War Black Box

The exhibition shows the effects of the construction of the wall not only on Germany, but also its international repercussions. bfgg.de

6 Standing Exhibition in Tränenpalast

The permanent exhibition entitled "Border Experiences. Everyday life in a divided Germany" offers testimonies from contemporaries and original material, witnesses of experiences in a divided country. hdg.de

7 DDR Museum

The DDR Museum presents a hands-on experience of everyday life in the former German Democratic Republic. ddr-museum.de

8 East Side Gallery

The East Side Gallery, the largest existing single piece of the wall, was founded in 1990 by 118 artists from 21 countries. eastsidegallery-berlin.de

9 The former Stasi Prison at Hohenschönhausen

A large part of the buildings and the furnishings has remained untouched, giving an authentic picture of the prison state in the GDR. stiftung-hsh.de

For more information and an up-dated events calendar:
wall.visitBerlin.de

Dates

25 Years Fall of the Berlin Wall

Valid as at 12.02.2014; please find up-to-date information on visitBerlin.de.



© Kulturprojekte Berlin/Christopher Bauder

Light Installation

07.–09.11.14

Made of thousands illuminated, helium-filled balloons, a border made of light will run for twelve kilometres across the city centre, along Bernauer Straße, past the Berlin Wall Memorial, then to the river Spree near the Reichstag, the Brandenburg Gate and Potsdamer Platz, Checkpoint Charlie and finally to Kreuzberg and along the Spree to the Oberbaumbrücke.

Along the former course of the Wall;
kulturprojekte-berlin.de



Ai Weiwei, 2012 – © Gao Yuan

Ai Weiwei

03.04.–07.07.14

Ai Weiwei is a mega star in the western international art scene. The exhibition covers 3,000 m² and shows new works and pieces never before seen in Germany, including examples of conceptual art and installations that are often political statements, but also reveal cultural and historical references.

Location: Martin-Gropius-Bau,
Niederkirchnerstr. 7, Berlin-Kreuzberg,
Wed–Mon 10a.m.–7p.m.;
gropius-bau.de



© Stiftung Deutsches Historisches Museum

Color for the Republic. Commissioned photography on life in the GDR

31.03.–31.08.2014

The exhibition presents never shown color photographs of daily life in the former GDR, amongst others pictures of public owned companies (VEBs), agricultural collectives (LPGs), kindergartens and old age homes as well as women's life in the GDR and the modern Berlin.

Location: Deutsches Historisches Museum, Unter den Linden 2, Berlin-Mitte
daily 10a.m.–6p.m.; dhm.de



Leif W. Leifhoff, Punkt an der Ecke Eisenbahntrasse, Museumstraße, 01 – © Verlag M – Stadtmuseum

West: Berlin – An Island in Search of Mainland

14.11.14–28.06.15

The special exhibition focuses on mentality and life style in West Berlin, the former „window of the west“: historical events, typical milieus and everyday life in a political enclave.

Location: Ephraim-Palais (Nikolai Quarter), Poststr. 16, Berlin-Mitte
Tue, Thu–Sun 10a.m.–6p.m.,
Wed 10a.m.–8p.m.; stadtmuseum.de

since September 2012	The Wall – The asisi Panorama of a Devided City Location: asisi Panometer at Checkpoint Charlie (Friedrich-/Zimmerstraße); www.asisi.de	Yadegar Asisi's panorama portrays an artistically compacted view of the days of the Cold War using the example of a fictitious day in the 1980s set against the backdrop of the Berlin Wall.
since October 2013	New permanent exhibition: Imprisoned in Hohenschönhausen: Evidence of political persecution 1945–1989; The Berlin-Hohenschönhausen Memorial; stiftung-hsh.de	Information about the history of the former Stasi remand centre; on display are objects from daily life in the GDR as well as rare reports of resistance from political prisoners.
since November 2013	New permanent exhibition: Everyday Life in the GDR Museum in der Kulturbrauerei; hdg.de/berlin	The exhibiton illustrates the „Everday Life in the GDR“ by showcasing original objects, documents and film as well as audio material.
21.03.–28.09.14	Matthias Koeppel: Heaven, Berlin! Location: Ephraim-Palais, stadtmuseum.de	Paintings from six decades by Berlin artist Matthias Koeppel, including demolition sceneries in West-Berlin, a large triptych dedicated to the opening of the Berlin Wall as well as motives of the Brandenburg Gate
09.–16. 04.14	achtung berlin – new berlin film award: retrospective Diverse cinemas in Berlin; achtungberlin.de	The film festival's retrospective is dedicated to Berlin films that were shot during the last 25 years and thus document the city's change since the Fall of the Berlin Wall.
May 2014	Veterans of the Berlin Airlift visit Berlin Förderfreunde Gail S. Halvorsen Schule e.V.	American and British veterans who participated in the Berlin Airlift in 1948/49 shall be invited to Berlin.
July 2014	Opening: Spy Museum Berlin; spymuseumberlin.com	The new Spy Museum Berlin is supposed to open in summer 2014 and shall be dedicated to espionage and secret services in the times of the Cold War in Berlin.

16.–17.08.14	100MeilenBerlin – The Berlin Wall Trail Run 2014 Start: Friedrich-Ludwig-Jahn Sportpark; 100meilen.de	The Berlin Wall Trail Run goes individually or as a relay team along the former inner-city border as a remembrance of the victims of the Berlin Wall.
September 2014	50th anniversary Martin Luther King in Berlin Location: Berlin Wall Memorial (Bernauer Straße) berliner-mauer-gedenkstaette.de	In September 1964, Martin Luther King preached a sermon in the western as well as in the eastern part of the city.
04.–08.09.14	Festivities to mark the 20th anniversary of the Allied's retreat from Berlin; diverse locations	Some kind of festivities and events are planned.
09.11.14	45th anniversary of Willy Brandt's inauguration as Chancellor Location: tba	Some kind of events are planned in order to mark the anniversary of Willy Brandt's inauguration as Chancellor (1969–1974).
09.11.14	Prayer service Location: Chapel of Reconciliation; berliner-mauer-gedenkstaette.de	The prayer service takes place ahead of the opening of the new permanent exhibiton (see below).
09.11.14	Re-opening of the Documentation Center Location: Berlin Wall Memorial (Bernauer Straße) berliner-mauer-gedenkstaette.de	Due to renovation, the Documentation Center is currently closed. It is scheduled to re-open with a new exhibition on November 9, the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.
09.11.14	A 12-kilometer human chain Location: along the light installation (see above)	Symbolic installation with the participation of thousands of Berliners and guests in order to demonstrate the dimensions of the Berlin Wall
09.11.14	Official Ceremony (closed event) Location: Konzerthaus at Gendarmenmarkt	There will be an official (not public) ceremony to mark the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.
21.11.14–09.03.15	Exhibition: Architecture in the Sixties – Urban planning and construction in divided Berlin Location: Berlinische Galerie; berlinischegalerie.de	Architecture and urban design from the sixties still set their stamp on the Berlin townscape. The Berlinische Galerie will present the first ever comprehensive overview of this architectural heritage in both East and West Berlin.

Berlin Highlights 2014–2015

25 years Fall of the Berlin Wall / First Ai-Wei-Wei exhibition in Berlin / 300th anniversary of the birth of Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach

Berlin, January 2014 The capital is rich in culture. Visitors who come to Berlin from all over the world have some 1,500 events to choose from every day. The interplay of its eventful history and a vibrant creative scene which reinvents itself every day makes Berlin a fascinating and unique cultural metropolis: world-renowned museums and avant-garde galleries, virtuoso orchestras and electro beats, pop-up restaurants and gourmet festivals, prominent theatres and open-air acts – every day in Berlin is an event!

In 2014, the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall will be at the centre of Berlin's cultural life. This momentous occasion will be accompanied by a number of city-wide events, especially in autumn. The first Berlin exhibition of Chinese artist Ai Weiwei and the 300th anniversary of the birth of composer Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach will be additional highlights in the German capital's cultural calendar. Looking ahead, 2015 will be all about sport, with the Champions League finale and the Formula E finale both coming to Berlin.

25th Anniversary Fall of the Wall

9 November 2014 will mark the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. To honour this milestone in German history, a series of special events and museum exhibitions are planned to take place throughout the city. The focus will be on the division of Berlin, the Cold War, and the peaceful revolution leading to reunification. Visitors to Berlin have many choices to experience the history of the wall and what it meant to the city and the people of Berlin. These include a GPS-guided walking tour on the trail of the Berlin Wall, guided or self-guided bicycle tours on the Wall path, visits to underground Berlin, former watch towers, Wall memorials, The GDR Museum, or a drive into the East of the city on board an original GDR Trabant car.

Various locations, autumn 2014, wall.visitBerlin.com

Light installation along the former course of the Berlin Wall in the city centre

An autumn highlight will be happening on the weekend around 9th November. Along the former course of the Berlin Wall an impressive light installation will set the scene and stand as a “symbol of hope for a world without walls”. Thousands of illuminated white balloons will form a 12-kilometre-long lighted wall that will be running right through the city centre. www.kulturprojekte-berlin.de/en/home.html

visitBerlin / Berlin Tourismus & Kongress GmbH

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Exhibitions

To mark the anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, a series of new exhibitions devoted to the division of Germany and life in the former GDR will be opening in Berlin. From 9th November 2014, the permanent exhibition at the Berlin Wall Documentation Centre will reopen its doors for the public after a year's renovation.

Gedenkstätte Berliner Mauer (Berlin Wall Memorial), www.berliner-mauer-gedenkstaette.de/en

From March to August, the Deutsches Historisches Museum (German Historical Museum) will feature the works of photojournalists Martin Schmidt and Kurt Schwarzer in an exhibition entitled "Colour for the Republic – Photo Reportages from Everyday Life in the GDR". Reportages, photographic series and promotional photos, including some previously unpublished images, will be used to reconstruct everyday life in former East Germany.

Deutsches Historisches Museum, 21.3.–21.8.2014, www.dhm.de/ENGLISH/ausstellungen

A new exhibition is also scheduled to open on Strausberger Platz. The Museum für Alltagskultur (Museum of Everyday Life) on Karl-Marx-Allee (known as Stalin-Allee from 1949–1961) will feature two apartments decorated using East German furnishings from the 1950s and 1970s. More information to come...

Extended: The Wall - Asisi Panorama

360° view of the Berlin Wall: with his panoramic view, Asisi takes visitors back to divided Berlin. An autumn day in the 1980s, dilapidated façades, children playing, and GDR border guards on patrol – the artist dedicates himself to detailed scenes of everyday life long before the Wall fell. Viewers can look at the 16-meter high canvases of steel rotunda from a platform. Originally planned until August 2014, the panorama at Checkpoint Charlie will stay open for visitors until the 31st March 2015.

Friedrichstraße / Zimmerstraße, extended until 31.3.2015, www.asisi.de

Long Nights in Berlin

34th Long Night of Museums

What once started as a nice idea has grown into a major event over the years, mobilizing the whole city and marking Berlin just as the TV tower or Ku'Damm. Twice a year, up to 100 museums, collections, archives, memorials and exhibition halls are opening their doors until far over midnight. At rather unusual hours, visitors can get a glimpse into the

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capital's many and diverse museums. Various shuttle busses will link the partaking locations.

34th Long Night of Museums, 17.5.2014, www.lange-nacht-der-museen.de

14th Long Night of Sciences 2014

Science becomes an experience on the "brightest night of the year". From 5pm until midnight, more than 70 scientific institutes in Berlin and at Potsdam invite you to visit laboratories, archives and lecture halls which are not normally open to the public. Scientists present their area of expertise, show experiments and answer to the manifold questions of the visitors.

Various locations, 10.5.2014, www.langenachtderwissenschaften.de

Exhibitions

Ai Weiwei – First Solo Exhibition of the Artist in Berlin

A major solo exhibition of the Chinese artist Ai Weiwei is scheduled to open in spring 2014 at the Martin Gropius Building. The exhibition is developed in cooperation with the artist, who is also going to exhibit in the large atrium of the building. Ai Weiwei has always understood his art as political: concept art, performance, photography - the breadth of the forms of his artistic expression has helped to make him China's most important contemporary artist.

Martin Gropius Bau, 3.4.–7.7.2014,
www.berlinerfestspiele.de/de/aktuell/festivals/berlinerfestspiele/presse_bfs/pressemeldungen/pressemeldung_detail_56287.php

100 Years since the Start of WWI – Special Exhibition at the German Historical Museum

Marking the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I, the German Historical Museum is planning a major exhibition in 2014. Throughout 15 stations, curator Juliane Haubold-Stolle plans to demonstrate locations and themes of the war and their effects from a global perspective.

Deutsches Historisches Museum, 6.6.–7.12.2014, www.dhm.de/ENGLISH/ausstellungen

Viking. The World of the Vikings – Interaction of Cultures

Go back more than a thousand years and immerse yourself in the world of the Vikings. From autumn 2014, the large-scale exhibition "The World of the Vikings – Cultures in Contact" will cover the cultural history of the Vikings with outstanding authentic artefacts from that time. The centrepiece will be the wreckage of the largest known Viking ship. Visitors will experience the fierce bravery of the Vikings from a new

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perspective. The exhibition was developed by the National Museum of Denmark in collaboration with the British Museum in London and the Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte (Museum of Prehistory and Early History) of the Berlin State Museums.

Martin-Gropius-Bau, 10.9.2014–31.1.2015, www.berlinerfestspiele.de/en

Opening: KINDL – centre for contemporary art

Abandoned industrial sites like breweries are currently enjoying a revival: places where hops and barley were once turned into beer are now home for arts and culture. On the premises of the former KINDL brewery, an exhibition venue for contemporary art is planned to open in autumn 2014. This new cultural complex covers 5,500 square metres, providing room for exhibitions of international modern artists, events as well as studios and a café. The Swiss curator Andreas Fiedler will be leading the new centre. Every two months until the grand opening, the event series “guests” will open certain rooms – e.g. the former Brew House, the 20-metre-high boiler room or the former Power House – and make them accessible to the public.

Opening in autumn 2014, www.kindl-berlin.de

Festivals and Events

300th Anniversary of Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach's Birth

Johann Sebastian Bach's son Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach is one of the most important composers of the 18th century. On the occasion of the 300th anniversary of his birth on 8 March 1714, the six Bach cities of Weimar, Leipzig, Frankfurt an der Oder, Berlin, Potsdam and Hamburg are planning a year of celebrations. A rich program consisting of concerts, exhibitions, conferences, festivals and many other activities will be dedicated to the life and work of the composer.

Various locations, 15.12.2013–31.12.2014, www.cpebach.de/en/welcome.html

64th International Film Festival Berlin

International stars on the red carpet, enthusiastic fans, film makers from all over the world – and, above all, great films. Between 6th and 16th February, Berlin is the centre of the film world during the 64th International Film Festival. Around 400 films are shown and tickets are available to everybody as the Berlinale is the largest public film festival in the world. With big international productions featuring top stars, experimental independent films and art house cinema from around the whole world, the festival presents films over 10 days that are inspiring as well as touching and let you discover new worlds.

Various locations, 6.–16.2.2014, www.berlinale.de/en

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Carnival of Cultures

The Carnival of Cultures will bring together the nations of the world in a cheery street festival. Guests will be treated to international music on four stages and some 400 stalls offering culinary delicacies and tasteful handicrafts. The culmination of the festivities is a colourful street parade on Whitsun. The audience can join in the party as floats with artists from 80 countries performing traditional dances and acrobatics pass by.

Blücherplatz, 6.–9.6.2014, www.karneval-berlin.de/de/english.175.html

BerMuDa – Berlin Music Days

International stars of the electronic music scene come together at the Berlin Music Days. The BerMuDa festival consists of the BerMuDays, BerMuNights and BerMuDa. In the BerMuDays workshops, lectures, exhibitions and fashion events are taking place around the topic of electronic music and lifestyle. For the BerMuNights showcases, parties and label events are organized in Berlin clubs.

Various locations, November (dates tba), www.bermuda-berlin.de

Fête de la Musique

In Berlin, the summer takes off with the Fête de la Musique. On around 90 open air stages throughout the city, there will be live concerts for free the whole day. From jazz over pop to rock, the program features music genres for every taste. Those preferring to stay out longer than sunset time can visit some of the numerous clubs that continue to celebrate with the Fête de la Nuit.

Various locations throughout the city, 21.6.2014, www.fetedelamusique.de

36th Christopher Street Day

With a parade that is just as vibrant as bizarre, lesbians, gays and transgenders demonstrate for equal rights and tolerance – heterosexual people also come along to support them. Colourful wigs, men in mesh dresses and recklessly high heels – the Christopher Street Day welcomes everything that is not boring. Every year, the demonstration is held under a new motto and fills the streets of Berlin hundreds of thousands spectators.

Kurfürstendamm, 21.6.2014, www.csd-berlin.de/en

Festival Days Berlin 2014

An array of great artists, a formidable programme, a highlight of the season: In Easter 2014 we can look forward again to exceptional opera and concert performances during the Festtage (Festival Days): Two music theatre productions and three concerts, with

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Press Release



Daniel Barenboim as conductor and pianist. The opera programme is dedicated to two artists celebrating anniversaries in the season 2013/14, Richard Wagner and Giuseppe Verdi.

Philharmonie and Staatsoper, 11.–24.4.2014, www.staatsoper-berlin.org/en_EN

10th Gallery Weekend

In May, the Berlin creative scene will hold a discovery tour through numerous galleries. Art lovers can get to know the city's contemporary art collections at exclusive viewings, events and guided tours.

Various locations, 2.–4.5.2014, www.berliner-galerien.de

Berlin Fashion Week

Twice a year, in winter and in summer, Berlin transforms itself into an international hotspot for fashion and lifestyle. During the Berlin Fashion Week – which boasts catwalks, off-site events and trade shows - fashion enthusiasts, buyers, industry experts and the media schmooze at fashion shows, awards ceremonies, and off-site events. Part of the Fashion Week, the BREAD & BUTTER international fair for street and urban wear turns the former field of Tempelhof Airport into an avant-garde catwalk, while the Mercedes-Benz Berlin Fashion Week shows the latest couture on "Straße des 17. Juni" at Siegessäule.

Various events and locations, 8.–13.7.2014, www.fashion-week-berlin.com/en

Berlin Art Week

No matter if artist or collector – hardly anyone can ignore the German capital these days. Between 16th and 21st September, the third edition of the Berlin Art Week is highlighting the significance of Berlin as an international art metropolis. The Berlin art scene will present itself via various platforms like atelier shows, activities in public spaces and discussions.

Tempelhof Airport, Station Berlin u.a., 16.–21.9.14, www.berlinartweek.de/en

Berlin Music Week

Vibrant parties, strong beats, dancing till dawn. In late summer, the capital is once again turning up its tunes. Live concerts at rooftops, clubbing events in numerous locations and the New Music Award: The Music Week from 3rd until 7th September offers a whole bundle of music events throughout Berlin.

Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg, 3.–7.9.2014, www.berlin-music-week.de/en/

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Berlin Christmas Markets

The aroma of candied apples and toasted almonds drives Berliners out of doors during the cold season into their city's Christmas markets. With more than 400 stalls at the weekend, the Christmas market in the old town of Spandau is the largest in the city. Sensual concerts, unique handicrafts, and culinary delights from top chefs are part of the winter magic at the Gendarmenmarkt. A romantic Christmas market is held in Charlottenburg. The illumination of the castle and the castle park create an enchanting backdrop. Winter sports enthusiasts head to Winter World in Potsdamer Platz. At the Christmas market, you can go ice skating and sledging on the largest mobile toboggan run in Europe.

Approx. 60 markets throughout the city, from mid-November 2014, visitBerlin.com

New Year's Eve at the Brandenburg Gate

The celebration will last until the wee hours at the city's largest New Year's Eve party, stretching for more than a mile from the Brandenburg Gate. The closing hours of the old year are spent watching a variety of shows on several stages and in numerous party tents. When the sky at the Brandenburg Gate lights up at midnight in a gigantic multi-coloured firework display, the turn of the year is truly unforgettable.

Straße des 17. Juni, 31.12.2014, www.silvester-in-berlin.de

Sporting Events

41st BMW Berlin Marathon

It will be another exciting Berlin Marathon. In addition to well-known athletics stars, the 42.195 km course will attract runners of all ages from all over the world, as well as wheelchair users and hand cyclists, who will be cheered on by friends, enthusiastic spectators and music. For athletes and spectators alike: the journey is the destination and the atmosphere unique. The marathon of in-line skaters and races for children will be held on Saturday; runners start on the same course on Sunday.

Start: Straße des 17. Juni, 27.–28.9.2014, www.bmw-berlin-marathon.com

DFB Cup Finals

The DFB Cup (German Football Association Cup) is a football cup for German national teams that has been held since 1935. Each year, it is organized by the German Football Association (DFB) and is the second-most important title in national club football after the German championship. Since 1985, the DFB Cup has been held in Berlin's Olympic Stadium.

Olympic Stadium, 17.5.2014, www.olympiastadion-berlin.de/en

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Fairs

ILA – Berlin Air Show

The International exhibition on aviation and space travel presents the latest developments in the field of aerospace technology. The ILA has been recognised as the oldest show of its kind. A highlight will be the weekend for public visitors when air shows with planes and helicopters from different eras will wow the audience

Berlin ExpoCenter Airport, Schönefeld (Selchow), 20.–25.5.2014, www.ila-berlin.de

Berlin Highlights 2015

Opening of the English Garden

In preparation for the Internationale Gartenausstellung 2017 (International Garden Show 2017), the Gardens of the World are enriched with a special garden. In the spring of 2015, a 5,000 m² traditional English garden with a cottage and cottage garden, a rose and perennial garden, wide lawns and an orchard will be ready to welcome visitors.

Garden of the Worlds, spring 2015, www.iga-berlin-2017.de

Champions League Finale

Football fans can rejoice when Berlin's football scene will take centre stage: on 6th June 2015, the men's Champions League Finale will take place in Berlin's Olympic Stadium. The women's finale will take place a day earlier on 5th June 2015.

Olympic Stadium, 6.6.2015, www.olympiastadion-berlin.de/en.html

Finale of the Formula E Championship

Another major event in 2015 will get racing fans excited when Berlin hosts the FIA Formula E Championship. After a tour of ten cities around the world, the finale of the first all-electric racing series will take place in Berlin. The fastest electric cars will rev their engines and race to the finish on the three-kilometer stretch on the tarmac of Tempelhofer Freiheit.

Tempelhofer Freiheit, May/June 2015, www.fiaformulae.com

More at events.visitBerlin.com.

(17,935 characters)

Press Release

Bikini Berlin revives City West

New, unconventional shopping hotspot between Zoo and the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church

14 January 2014 When the completely renovated Bikini Berlin opens on 3rd April, there will be a new tourist attraction on Breitscheidplatz. The redesigned building complex will give fashion labels and restaurateurs a platform to present their ideas. Innovative shopping concepts in 60 stores and 20 pop-up stores will be particularly attractive to trend-conscious visitors from abroad.

Burkhard Kieker, CEO of *visitBerlin*, remarks: "Berlin's West is on the rise. Bikini Berlin is an inspiration for our city and is a major gain for the City West. Bikini Berlin will appeal to an international, design-loving audience with its unconventional and urban Berlin sense of chic."

Following the opening of the Waldorf Astoria in January 2013 and the recently completed refurbishment of the Zoo Palast cinema, the renovation of Bikini Berlin is the third major construction project to be completed in the City West. In addition to the flagship stores and restaurants planned to open at Bikini Berlin soon, a design hotel by the 25hours Hotel Company will be moving into the directly adjacent small skyscraper from 31 January 2014 to offer an innovative hotel experience.

The name "Bikini Berlin" goes back to the time it was built in the 1950s. Locals dubbed it the "Bikini" because its architectural design gave the appearance of being two separate structures, like a bikini. The building complex has been undergoing a complete renovation from late 2010. One of its highlights is its new 7,000 m² green terrace, overlooking the zoo and open to the general public.

(Characters: 1,678)

visitBerlin

"We know Berlin". This is the slogan that Berlin Tourismus & Kongress GmbH, operating under the trade name *visitBerlin*, has been using since 1993 to advertise Berlin globally as a travel destination. The *visitBerlin* Berlin Convention Office markets the German capital as a convention destination. After London and Paris, Berlin is third-most popular European city for tourism, with 24.9 million overnight stays in the German capital during 2012. Berlin is also one of the most popular destinations for conventions and meetings and is likewise ranked third. As a tour operator, *visitBerlin* offers a wide range of travel packages and also issues the official tourist ticket, the Berlin Berlin WelcomeCard. *visitBerlin* operates five Berlin Tourist Infos. The Berlin Service Center (Tel. +49(0)30-25 00 25) provides information on the complete spectrum of tourist services in Berlin. Information on the capital city is available in 13 languages at visitBerlin.de.

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Press Release

First David Bowie retrospective coming to Berlin

Exhibition *David Bowie* from 20 May until 10 August 2014 in the Martin-Gropius-Bau

Berlin, 27 February 2014 David Bowie is back in Berlin: from 20 May until 10 August 2014, the exhibition curated by London's Victoria and Albert Museum will be on display at the Martin-Gropius-Bau. The multi-media retrospective of David Bowie's oeuvre offers a comprehensive audio-visual experience. The show will feature approximately 300 artefacts, including handwritten lyrics, original costumes, set designs and Bowie's own instruments to give insight into the wide-ranging work and eventful life of the pop and style icon.

"The exhibition *David Bowie* is a major highlight for Berlin," says Burkhard Kieker, *visitBerlin* CEO. "The retrospective is especially exciting because David Bowie and Berlin are bound by a very special relationship."

After its premiere in London and stopovers in Toronto and São Paulo, the stop in Berlin is a highlight for the exhibition due to Bowie's close ties with the city. Bowie's years in Berlin from 1976–78 were among his most musically productive. Staged at the Martin Gropius Bau, an exclusively extended display will give visitors an idea of how Bowie created music history in the then-divided city.

The exhibition *David Bowie* was curated by London's Victoria and Albert Museum. Organizer of the exhibition in the Martin-Gropius-Bau is Avantgarde. For more information and tickets, please visit davidbowie-berlin.de.

(Characters: 1,488)

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Avantgarde Culture Brands

The exhibition in the Martin-Gropius-Bau is organised by Avantgarde. In addition to its offices in Berlin, Munich, Dresden and Cologne, Germany, the agency also maintains offices in London, Paris, Moscow and nine other international locations. Among its customers in the cultural sector are dOCUMENTA (13), the State Art Collections in Dresden and the Semperoper. As a link between participating cultural institutions and companies providing financial support, Avantgarde is bringing the exhibition to Berlin and making it accessible to a wide audience.

Press contact for the exhibition: **ARTPRESS** – Ute Weingarten, presse@davidbowie-berlin.de, Tel. +49(0)30-484963 510

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Capital in Step with the Times – always new, always Berlin!

Discover Berlin's vibrant, cosmopolitan and creative vibe

Berlin, March 2014 Twenty five years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the capital has its own attraction. She projects itself as a modern, cosmopolitan and creative city at the heart of Europe. For every visitor, the city offers a very personal experience: from cultural institutions such as museums and operas to partying in one of the many clubs. And for those who look for relaxation: In Berlin a fast paced metropolis and relaxing rest areas in nature are not far apart. Whether in Tiergarten, Tempelhofer Freiheit or Grunewald – every district has its green oasis.

City of unlimited possibilities

Originally a symbol of separation, since Reunification the former 'Walled City' of Berlin, lying as it does at the interface between Western and Eastern Europe, has developed into a popular travel destination and is highly indicative of the current trend, not only as tourists from Germany are concerned but also visitors from abroad. Guests are not only interested in the history and culture of the city, but also in the lifestyle of its inhabitants.

In 2013, the tourism metropolis Berlin has set a new record: for the first time there were 26.9 million overnights per year. 11.3 million individual guests had travelled to Berlin. In this way, Berlin was able to further strengthen its position as Top 3 Destination in Europe, after London and Paris.

But exactly what is it that actually makes Berlin so attractive? It is the diversity, the contrasts and the sheer inexhaustible potential of this capital city to consistently fire the enthusiasm of its visitors from all over the world. People are excited by the mixture of history and Zeitgeist, the broad spectrum of art, culture, music, entertainment and shopping facilities. The modern hotel landscape, the diversity of its cuisine and its outstanding cost-effectiveness by comparison to other destinations in Europe also go to make up the special charm that is the metropolis on the Spree. A flourishing creative scene together with Berlin's hip music and club culture likewise contribute to the unmistakable lifestyle metropolis with a population of around 3.3 million.

Traces of history and contemporary architecture

Ever since its foundation in the Middle Ages, Berlin has never ceased to make history – whether as the capital of Prussia or as a booming metropolis of the nineteen-twenties. The day the Wall came down was, as far as the divided city was concerned, the start of a new era bringing with it fundamental political changes such as the Reunification of Germany in 1990, the Bonn-Berlin decision in 1991 and the relocation of the seat of government to the Spree in 1999. Since that time Berlin has undergone some radical

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changes. It has reconciled the differences between East and West and the two sides have grown together. The original 23 districts have become twelve and are now home to people from more than 180 countries.

Today Berlin stands for dynamism and modernity, but there is evidence of its turbulent past everywhere in the face the city presents to the world. In the wake of Reunification, historic buildings have been restored and where the Iron Curtain formally hung new districts and spectacular sights such as the Government Quarter or the Holocaust Memorial have sprung up. The mix of historic sites and modern architecture of the 20th and 21st centuries fascinates visitors from all over the world. Internationally renowned architects have been involved in designing the unmistakable skyline of the Potsdamer Platz, the distinctive new buildings of the modern Government Quarter around the Reichstag with its glass dome that can be seen from far away and the new quarter around the Hauptbahnhof (main station). The rebuilding of the former city palace (or 'Stadtschloss') in Mitte and the new development around the zoo in City-West are just two of the further major urban construction projects that are currently being realized.

With the opening of new luxury hotel Waldorf Astoria at the Kurfürstendamm in 2013 new life comes into the area around the popular shopping street. After the boom of the East Berlin trendy districts in the post-unification period, there are now signs of a return to the former centre of West Berlin around Zoo station and the Memorial Church (Gedächtniskirche). With the modernisation of the Bikini house, the refurbishment of Zoopalast and the building of the Zoofenster, Breitscheidplatz square will get a completely different face.

Attractive offerings in terms of art and culture

Whether it is the art of the Old Masters, present-day paintings or avant-garde design of tomorrow, classical opera, musical or hip pop concert, sophisticated theatre or the variety shows with their chequered repertoire – with around 1,500 events every day, Berlin's cultural calendar features an assortment that leaves nothing to be desired.

With their historic art collections, unusual architecture and new exhibition concepts, some 180 museums cannot fail to make a visit to the capital an unforgettable experience. At the heart of Berlin's arts landscape is the Museum Island, encompassing five buildings in the historic city centre. Since the Neues Museum was reopened in October 2009 it is the first time for 70 years that all the museums in the ensemble, unique in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1999, are accessible to the public. In addition to the Pergamon Altar and the famous bust of Nefertiti, valuable art treasures covering around 6,000 years of the history of mankind are on view.

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Nevertheless, over the last few years Berlin has also succeeded in making a name for itself worldwide as a location for contemporary art in the shape of high quality exhibitions at the Hamburger Bahnhof, in the New National Gallery or at Martin-Gropius-Bau. In addition, the regional Association of Berlin Galleries currently counts some 440 galleries in the art metropolis. Furthermore, around 200 non-commercial showrooms and off spaces, which regularly show new exhibitions, have to be added.

Lovers of classical music will find something, not only at the Staatsoper Unter but also at the Deutsche Oper and the Komische Oper. The German capital is the only metropolitan area in the world that is able to boast three opera houses. Eight large symphony orchestras – one of which is the world-renowned Berlin Philharmonic under the direction of Sir Simon Rattle – likewise offer first-class musical enjoyment. 150 theatre stages, both large and small, play spirited avant-garde pieces as well as major classics and ensure a wide diversity of entertainment options encompassing all genres. A multi-faceted and chequered canvas of entertainment is also on offer for visitors to Berlin in the big music houses, in dazzling revue theatres like the "Friedrichstadt-Palast", in vaudeville shows like in the famous "Wintergarten" or in numerous smaller cabaret and comedy shows.

Creative metropolis and capital city of trend

As a UNESCO "City of Design" and the first German city to figure in the worldwide network of "Creative Cities", Berlin is well to the fore in the architecture, art and fashion sectors. It is here in the hip 'scene' metropolis that tomorrow's trends are born. Over the last few years Berlin has established itself as a centre of modern design. The capital inspires and offers space for unusual ideas, innovative concepts and unconventional life scripts of each and every kind. Attracted by this dynamism and the sense of creative euphoria, numerous international artists and designers come to Berlin looking to gain inspiration from its lively atmosphere and to expand their creative potential and give vent to all its diversity. The annual DMY Design Festival showcases new trends.

Since Reunification the Berlin artistic scene has developed into one of the most exciting and dynamic in Europe and is currently experiencing an enormous influx of creative talent from all over the world. The number of galleries in which young, talented artists present contemporary and alternative art for the collections of tomorrow is increasing rapidly. The lively Galerienviertel (Gallery Quarter) in Mitte, along with Kreuzberg, Charlottenburg and the area around the Hamburger Bahnhof beckon art lovers to embark on thrilling voyages of discovery through the creative scene. Every two years Berlin stages one of the most important events related to contemporary art, the so-called "Berlin Biennale". The 8th Berlin Biennale has been set to take place between May 29 and August 3, 2014 at different venues in Berlin.

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The third Berlin Art Week – a platform for artists, galleries and art institutions – will take place September 16 – 21, 2014. The event is a further sign of Berlin as a significant location for art.

The City of Creativity has also developed into a centre for young and avant-garde fashion. As in other areas of design, a wealth of ideas, individuality and quality are the order of the day here too. Numerous international exhibitions like the Bread&Butter or the Berlin Fashion Week offer visitors the opportunity to become familiar with the latest trends on the fashion scene.

Neither are the shopping facilities in Berlin any less varied than the fashions. It's all there – from chic to trendy, from elegant haute couture right through to casual urban and street wear. The four big shopping complexes – Kurfürstendamm, Potsdamer Platz, Friedrichstrasse and Alexanderplatz – as well as numerous big shopping centres along with smaller trend shops in the 'scene' districts of Mitte, Prenzlauer Berg, Kreuzberg and Friedrichshain beckon, enticing the visitor with their enormous range of goods and their liberal opening times.

With its pulsating nightlife and unusual locations, the party metropolis weaves a spell that captivates everyone. Berliners and international tourists can experience the sound of the capital in the hip bars and discotheques of the city, where people dance and party right through to the small hours.

Congress destination and innovative scientific location

Berlin is Congress City No. 1 in Germany. This is confirmed by current visitor and delegate numbers. During 2013 alone, 127,100 meetings and conventions took place in Berlin. Some 10.6 million participants travelled to the German capital.

On the site of Deutschlandhalle a new two-storey event arena will be built: CityCube Berlin. It replaces temporarily the International Congress Centre ICC Berlin, Europe's largest convention centre, which will be closed and fully refurbished from 2014. With the reopening of the ICC, Messe Berlin will then have almost the double convention capacities. Consequently, Berlin will be able to maintain its position amongst the Top 3 of the international convention locations in future, too.

The major exhibitions staged by the capital include the Internationale Tourismusbörse Berlin (ITB), the Berlin Air Show (ILA) and the IFA (Internationale Funkausstellung – International Radio Exhibition Berlin). New innovative exhibitions and events such as the Berlin Music Week at the former airport Tempelhof are currently becoming established. Particularly appreciated by the international delegates attending exhibitions, incentives and events is the diversity of congress centres, excellent hotels and the incomparable

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events schedules that Berlin has to offer. Furthermore, the German capital features the most modern hotel landscape in Europe. The wide range of hotels available is backed by such compelling features as outstanding quality of service, a high standard of quality and, in particular, excellent value for money.

The latter is also true of the Berlin restaurant scene which is just as varied and exciting as the city itself. Whether it is 'Currywurst' or a doner on the corner, regional specialties, exotic delicacies or the 3-course menu provided by an award-winning ace cook, the restaurants and bars in the capital have culinary enjoyment to suit every palate on their menus. With 19 Michelin stars in 14 restaurants, Berlin remains the gourmet capital of Germany.

All roads lead to ... Berlin!

Thanks to Berlin's geographical position at the heart of Europe and its outstanding infrastructure it's an easy city to access – regardless of if you're coming from L.A. or London. Whether you're taking a plane, train, vehicle, bus or boat, there's always a way to get to Berlin. www.visitberlin.de/en/plan/before-the-trip/journey

Flying to Berlin is often not only the fastest, but also the cheapest way of travelling. You can also enjoy the exceptional view across the city from the sky. One of the first things you are likely to spot is the TV tower welcoming the air passengers from far away. Both Tegel and Schönefeld Airport can be easily and quickly reached from the city's centre, and are optimally integrated into the airlines' national and international route network.

Passenger cars and buses must display the appropriate sticker within the Low Emissions Zone. The city centre features a closely integrated suburban traffic network providing unlimited mobility for Berliners and tourists alike at any time of the day or night.

The Berlin WelcomeCard is an invaluable companion for getting around and discovering the German capital. The popular City Ticket ('Städteticket'), available from as little as 18.50 Euros, gives access to 200 discount offers for sights such as the Zoological Gardens and the Fernsehturm, as well as free travel on public transport in the city, see www.visitBerlin.com.

(13.581 characters)

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Press Release

Berlin's Bar Scene

Current hotspots and institutions that have stood the test of time

Berlin, February 2014 With its well-deserved reputation as one of Europe's primo party capitals, Berlin offers a thousand and one scenarios for getting your cocktails and kicks (or wine or beer, for that matter). Best of all, the bar landscape is becoming increasingly diverse and getting an ever sharper image thanks to a bevy of exciting new openings. So no matter whether you're into old-school classics, dive bars, concept bars, branded bars, wine bars, speakeasies, hotel bars or hipster lounges, you'll never be far from a quality thirst parlor.

Here's a spirited crawl to the newest arrivals as well as a few classics that never stopped mattering.

Golden Times in Mitte

Mitte, Berlin's most dynamic and cosmopolitan neighborhood, is packed with handsome hangouts that are the darlings of the creative in-crowd but also manage to cast their spell on thirsty visitors. Most have well-thought bar concepts, sleek décor and drinks made with top-shelf spirits. Patrons tend to be older, more demanding and well-off, as is also reflected in the prices. In other words: In Mitte, Berlin demonstrates that it's finally growing up.

One of the newest glamour haunts is Bonbon Bar, which is essentially an extension of the affiliated Dudu restaurant across the street. It's a seductively lit and expensively decorated retreat whose eye-catching design accents and cheeky soundtrack in the bathrooms are likely to fuel any conversation. When big-name DJ's hit the decks, the place gets delightfully dancy. www.bonbonbar.de

Nearby, Berlin bar supremo Mario Grünenfelder (Bar Amano, Mani et al) has again – twice – demonstrated his Midas touch of late. His G&T Bar is Germany's first drinking salon entirely dedicated to gin-based libations. The classic gin & tonic here reaches new levels of complexity thanks to richly nuanced tea infusions, so-called G&T&Ts. Walls of this clubby English-style bar, incidentally, are sheathed in 'Tanqueray-green', the gin brand that cosponsors the concept along with Berlin-based tonic maker Thomas Henry. www.amanogroup.de/en/eat-drink/gin-tonic-bar

Grünenfelder's is also part of the crew behind Dean (named for James, not Martin), which has taken over the space of the iconic Delicious Doughnuts club on Rosenthaler Strasse. The trashy predecessor has morphed into a swank drink and dance parlor for grown-ups. Black and gold dominate the sleek design of the tunnel-shaped room that

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culminates in a small mirrored dance floor. Philipp Bischoff (formerly of Amano Bar) and Tino Riller (Reingold) shake things up behind the sturdy marble bar.

www.amanogroup.de/en/eat-drink/dean

Another exciting new arrival is Le Croco Bleu, overseen by cocktail luminary Gregor Scholl whose clubby Rum Trader in western Berlin has written bar history since 1976. His newest 'laboratory' occupies the machine room of the former Böttzow Brewery that's been spruced up with taxidermied animals, mushroom tables and other fanciful Hansel-and-Gretel décor. Scholl and bar chef Michael Hanke have dug deep into their repertory to come up with extravagant twists on classics. Fairy Floss – a Sazerac topped with absinthe-laced cotton candy – is truly an eye-catcher. <http://lecrocobleu.com/en>

Those who lamented the 2012 demise of Trust on Torstraße will rejoice at finding out that Trust 2.0 is going strong in an unmarked cavern beneath the Hackescher Markt S-Bahn tracks. With two floors, the industrial-flavored reincarnation (exposed concrete enhanced with vintage chandeliers and bits of bling) is bigger than the original but the drinks concept is much the same: spirits, wine and champagne are available by the bottle only. As a concession, beer is served as well, albeit in a brown paper bag.

www.facebook.com/Trust.Berlin

Around the corner, flatteringly lit The Liberate drips in black-and-gold opulence that would not look out of place in Paris or New York. Only top-shelf spirits find their destinations here in classic potables poured amid décor that includes a mirror and chandelier scavenged from the demolished Palace of the Republic, East Germany's former seat of parliament. www.theliberate.com

More happening Mitte bars:

[Bravo Bar](#) – signless shabby-chic drinking den

[Buck and Breck](#) – classic cocktail parlor for serious drinking

[Butcher's Bar Berlin](#) – Speakeasy entered via a sausage parlor

[King Size Bar](#) – hole-in-the wall party haven

[Neue Odessa Bar](#) – fashionable candle-lit haunt

Hip Hotel Bars

In Berlin, hotel bars are no longer the neglected stepchildren of drinking culture but hip haunts with a large local following. Amano Bar (Hotel Amano) and Curtain Club (Ritz-Carlton Berlin) were among the first to pave the way for this sweeping trend, which has of late also engulfed the City-West.

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First on the scene was the Lang Bar at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. Named for the 1920s pioneer of German cinema, it appropriately oozes film-set glamour thanks to its endless marble bar, curvaceous booths and wispy curtains. In keeping with the theme, bar chef Wieland Hartauer whips up matching Prohibition-era drinks and also makes his own bottled- and barrel-aged cocktails. www.waldorfastoriaberlin.com/deu/Restaurants-Lounges/Lang-Bar

January 2014 saw the opening of the Monkey Bar at the much anticipated Berlin branch of the hip 25 Hours hotel chain. On the 10th floor of the revitalized Bikini-Haus, this 'urban jungle' hotspot delivers fabulous view of the city and the Berlin Zoo – in summer from a sweeping terrace. Drinks-wise, the list gives prominent nods to tiki concoctions and gin-based cocktail sorcery. The Tiki Reviver, made with apricot brandy and homemade nutmeg syrup is a signature drink. www.25hours-hotels.com/de/bikini/restaurant/monkey-bar.html

Meanwhile, Hotel am Steinplatz, a reborn art deco jewel with a 100-year-old pedigree, fielded its stylish Bar am Steinplatz, the latest liquid playground of cocktail whisperer Christian Gentemann. The classic and creative drinks (how about a porcini-infused martini?) often showcase regionally produced spirits, and even the draft beer is crafted by the Berlin-based Rollberg microbrewery. Bar bites complement the drinks, and on Thursdays renowned DJs from the stable of local nightclub impresario Cookie helm the decks. www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/berak-hotel-am-steinplatz-autograph-collection

Already a fixture on the hotel drinking circuit is the bar at the boutique hotel [Das Stue](http://www.das-stue.com/en/restaurants-bar/stue-bar). Although ensconced in a pompous 1930s building, the interior stays true to its name, which is Danish for living-room. Light installations and animal sculptures pave the way to the bar where serious mixologists give classic cocktails from the 1920s and '30s a contemporary makeover. Also available: rare whiskeys and cognacs and a wine gallery stocked with 400 German, Austrian and Spanish vintages. www.das-stue.com/en/restaurants-bar/stue-bar

Back in Mitte, the stylish new budget Hotel Monbijou has gotten into the game with its Bar Bijou, which is indeed a jewel with the sparkle of a 21st-century gentlemen's club. Behind the bar, veterans Steffen Zimmermann and Andreas Künster whip up everything from an Aviation to a Whisky Sour as well as some of their own creations. Suckers for suds should appreciate the smooth Robinson's Old Tom Ale. www.monbijouhotel.com/images/smokingbar.pdf

More great hotel bars:

[Amano Bar](#) at Amano Hotel — Elegant and cosy lounge with innovative drinks

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Press Release

[Bebel Bar](#) at Hotel de Rome — Exclusive ambiance, in summer on the rooftop terrace
[Curtain Club](#) at Ritz-Carlton Berlin — Chic woodpaneled lounge-bar with ‘perfume-cocktails’

New Horizons in Kreuzberg & Neukölln

The hipster hoods of Kreuzberg and Neukölln have thus far been better known for over-the-top partying than civilized cocktail sipping. Of late, though, several new arrivals have notably elevated the ‘liquid art’ scene. Most are overseen by next-gen mixologists not shy about applying their classic training to boundary-pushing experimental riffs. Fortunately, as befits these bubbly neighborhoods, even the fanciest sipping stations are delightfully devoid of attitude.

Case in point: Schwarze Traube, the homebase of Atalay Aktas who snagged the title of Germany’s Best Bartender in 2013 with ‘My Destiny’, a refreshing blend of herb-infused vodka, lime and agave syrup. There is no printed menu in this pint-sized drinking parlor decorated with fleur de lis wallpaper and (empty) birdcages. Instead, the bar staff first ascertains each imbiber’s mood and preferences, whittles it down to a few choices, then fashions a bespoke concoction with just the right fit. Just as the boho-chic crowd likes it. www.facebook.com/pages/Schwarze-Traube/285128574917399

Maverick mixer Marcus Wolff has also been following the ‘no menu’ concept for some time. He presides over nearby Bar Marqués, a tiny and sophisticated shrine to spirits tucked beneath the eponymous Spanish restaurant. Its velvet sofas, antique tables and, in winter, a lustily roaring fireplace give patrons the feel of hiding in a stylish 1920s New York speakeasy. The emphasis is on drinks that have written cocktail history – Martini to Negroni – served in stylish cut-glass tumblers. www.facebook.com/thebar.marques

The sexy glamour of the Golden Twenties gets a classy reboot at Prinzpal, a jewel-box-sized burlesque bar right on funky-punky Oranienstrasse. Once buzzed past the steel door, patrons plunge into a cheeky parallel world where the female servers wear corsets and feathers. The bar is modeled after old European apothecaries and the cocktails are named after famous dancers (Date with Dita, Monroe’s Kiss). On some nights, burlesque performers swing from the ceiling and a makeup artist turns patrons into vamps. <http://prinzpal-kreuzberg.com>

Limonadier is a relatively new kid on the Kreuzberg block but has already garnered most-favored status among local cocktail lovers. Walls are sheathed in yellowed book pages, and next to the bar a big portrait channels Harry Johnson, whose 1882 bartenders’ manual is still the profession’s ‘bible’. The drinks menu too shows a dedication to the

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classics, supplemented by locally inspired modern interpretations (Berlin at Night, Kreuzberg Spritz). Budget imbibers come for the daily happy hour. www.limonadier-barkultur.de

Neukölln barflies with a hankering for finely crafted cocktails flock to the softly lit Das TiER. With its top-shelf spirits, smartly clad pro bar staff and no-groups-over-six-people policy, the vibe feels a lot more grown up than at the area's usual improv hipster dives. Standouts among the luscious libations are the Old Fashioned and the Blood and Sand. Adventurers can order the delightfully wicked absinthe-based Schierlingsbecher (Hemlock Cup). www.facebook.com/TiERBAR?rf=106600052737091

Also recommended:

[Würgeengel](#) – Art Deco cocktail cavern
[Lugosi](#) – beer, wine and long drinks for purists

Berlin's New Generation of Wine Bars

Trends need a while to develop, then suddenly reach a tipping point and burst into bloom with energy and creativity. Oenophiles rejoice: If the recent crop of exciting newcomers is any indication, wine bars seem to be approaching their zenith in Berlin. Many of them are bar-shop hybrids; some of them also serve food. Run by wine enthusiasts, the mood is egalitarian rather than elitist with wines for all budgets on offer.

Cordobar, a casually sophisticated Mitte outpost, is the joint effort of a music producer, a movie director and two sommeliers. Characterful German and Austrian vintages dominate the well-curated wine-by-the-glass list, which is kept in frequent flux. So is the hearty, globally inspired small-plate menu that might feature kimchi risotto or tuna udon salad. www.cordobar.net

A long-time top address in Mitte is Muret La Barba, a shop-bar-restaurant where a huge inventory of Italian wines lines the floor-to-ceiling shelves. Be it perky prosecco or sensual Sangiovese, all wines can be ordered by the glass and consumed right in this bustling venue whose rustic authenticity instantly transports cognoscenti to the Boot. Crave-worthy nosh featuring top ingredients imported from the motherland support the liquid offerings. www.muretlabarba.de

Nearby, Swiss-born Maxime Boillat debuted his own wine bar – Maxim – in early 2014, following stints as sommelier and maitre d' in several of Berlin's finest restaurants. The selection reflects his penchant for 'natural wines' – those that are not just organically grown but also handled with minimal chemical interference. Most hail from Italy, Spain

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and France as well as, somewhat surprisingly, from Slovenia. The wine is on equal footing with the upscale bar menu, which includes irresistibly gooey cheeses.

www.facebook.com/pages/MAXIM-Bar-%C3%A0-vins/487456468030232?ref=ts

Down in Neukölln, Vin Aqua Vin also does triple duty as a wine shop, bar and eatery amid a homey, anti-snob vibe that takes out the intimidation factor and makes even wrinkle-free hipsters drop by for a sip. Instead of expensive trophy wines, owner Jan Kreuzinger pours and sells a shifting set of affordable boutique favorites, many from small next-gen German producers with a willingness to experiment. A must-try: his own sparkling wine label SEKOi. <http://vinaquavin.de>

Long before the current wine bar trend took root, there was Klemkes Wein- und Spezialitätenec in Charlottenburg. Since 1983, Berlin-born Werner and Elfriede Klemke have been running their wine shop cum nosh spot at Mommsenstraße 9, earning it the right to be called an institution. Amid old-fashioned décor, Werner is the man behind one of the city's best curated wine selections that features only bottles from vintners he knows personally. Elfriede, meanwhile, feeds classic German 'hausfrau-style' weekday lunches to office jockeys, cabbies and lawyers crowding around simple bar tables.

Classic Cocktail Culture in Schöneberg

Dapper drinking has long been fashionable in Schöneberg, exemplified by the Green Door that has welcomed cocktail lovers since 1995. A pattern of checks and waves decorates the walls of this ribbon-shaped bar presided over by top-flight publicans flaunting a 500-drink repertory. Though not a speakeasy, the name harkens back to the Prohibition era when green doors pointed to premises serving alcohol.

www.greendoor.de

A celebrity haunt in the 1990s, the Bar am Lützowplatz was recently kissed back to life after an eight-month beauty sleep. Under the leadership of Thomas Pflanz (aka 'Mr T'), who oversaw the place for 17 years during its heyday, the classic American bar has been given a Zeitgeist-compatible makeover. Still there: the superlong bar. Gone: the raucous happy hour. Instead, the drinks menu has been whittled down to around 30 umbrella-free cocktails, the full range of premium spirits as well as beer, liqueurs and vodka from Berlin producers. www.baramluetzowplatz.com

[Victoria Bar](#) has been a beacon of sophistication on gritty Potsdamer Strasse since being founded in 2001 by passionate veteran barkeepers Beate Hindermann and Stefan Weber. 'The Pleasure of Serious Drinking' is the motto of this communicative space teeming with arty regulars. If you want to feel like one of them, order the off-menu 'Hilde', created in memory of German singer-actress Hildegard Knef. www.victoriabar.de

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Another Schöneberg flagship is Lebensstern, ensconced in elegant, antique-filled rooms of the 19th-century villa of silent movie star Henny Porten. Its shelves hold a dazzling selection of rare and noble spirits, including 600 types of rum. Ever since Tarantino filmed scenes of *Inglorious Basterds* here, there's also a drink by that name (featuring gin, brandy, fresh lime juice and ginger beer). www.lebens-stern.de/en

Still comparatively new on the booze circuit is Stagger Lee, a cozy cocktail saloon complete with swing door, brown Chesterfield sofas and burgundy-red walls. It's mostly about classic drinks, but inspired new compositions – such as the Stagger Lee Beer Old Fashioned, made with bourbon and beer sugar – are well worth a try. Stagger Lee, by the way, was an infamous 19th-century murderer immortalized in song by the Grateful Dead, Nick Cave and many others. www.staggerlee.de

More information: visitBerlin.com

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25 Years since the Fall of the Wall – Berlin’s anniversary project – large-format film collage impresses with pictures of the city division and presents the “border of light”

Berlin, March 5, 2014. The “Lichtgrenze” (border of light) is the installation along the former path of the wall through the city center. It will trace the division of the city over a stretch of approximately 12 kilometers and with about 8,000 illuminated balloons as an impressive installation in Berlin until November 9, 2014. At once emotional, poetic, and serious, this installation remembers the recent historical event, the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989.

As the Wall fell 25 years ago in 1989, pictures of the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin traveled around the world and became indelible symbols of the regained freedom. Autumn 2014 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. On this day, Berlin will stand once more at the center of worldwide attention.

The anniversary now gives occasion to remember this incisive historical event. A symbolic “Lichtgrenze” (border of light) made of illuminated balloons will be the poignant high point over the weekend of November 9, 2014. It will trace the former division of the city along this segment of the former path of the Wall in the city center. Hundreds of thousands of Berliners and city visitors will be able to reencounter strikingly along this stretch the intensity as well as the hugeness of the city division.

At the international travel trade fair ITB Berlin, Kulturprojekte Berlin GmbH together with *visitBerlin* will give a first look at the coming anniversary: the commemoration project “25 Years since the Fall of the Wall” in Germany’s capital.

Amid the bustling happenings of the fair, a first visual impression of the “Lichtgrenze” can be had during ITB in Hall 13. One-of-a-kind historical recordings will coalesce in a large-format panorama (with film sequences from “Mauerflug – The Berlin Wall” / camera: Peter Gärtner, © Sanssouci Film GmbH, “Grenzdurchbruch 89” / director: Mathias-Joachim Blochwitz, © Progress Filmverleih, and “Die Mauer” / director: Jürgen Böttcher, camera; Thomas Plenert, © Progress Filmverleih) with animation pictures of the planned light installation.

“With the twenty-fifth anniversary of the fall of the Wall, in equal measure the division of the city is remembered, respect is shown to the demonstrators of ‘the Peaceful Revolution’ of 1989, but also the invitation is given to celebrate on occasion of one of the happiest days in the history of Berlin! We also expect, not least of all owing to the worldwide symbolism of the date, the events to have a large international radiance,” explains Moritz van Dülmen, the executive director of Kulturprojekte Berlin GmbH, which is entrusted with the coordination and realization of the event.

Numerous partner and cross-institutional events as well as projects refer to the “25 Years since the Fall of the Wall” anniversary this year and hence support the matter overall. Successful proceedings – such as the previously achieved twentieth anniversary of the fall of the Wall in 2009 or the fiftieth anniversary of the building of the Berlin Wall in 2011 –

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will be taken up. The array of themes will extend from the memory of “the Peaceful Revolution” in 1989 and the fall of the Wall to the meaning of November 9 as a “symbol of hope for a world without walls.” An extensive Internet presence will be presented in mid-May under www.berlin.de/Mauerfall2014.

The commemoration celebrations are realized as an initiative of the state of Berlin by Kulturprojekte Berlin GmbH, which coordinates the activities in collaboration with the Berlin Wall Foundation, the Robert Havemann Society, as well as additional partners and institutions.

The light installation is based on an idea from Christopher Bauder and Marc Bauder.

Berlin: Highlights in Autumn

Berlin is again today a city that signifies worldwide an exciting place of creativity, innovations, originality, uniqueness, as well as authenticity and that sets international standards. Two further festivals give exemplary expression to the development Berlin could make after the fall of the Berlin Wall and since 1989: Berlin Art Week (September 16–21, 2014) and Berlin Music Week (September 3–7, 2014). Alongside the “25 Years since the Fall of the Wall” anniversary, there is information in the exhibition hall on these great cultural high points, which are also entrusted to Kulturprojekte Berlin.

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